Statement

Government have appointed Justice K. Venkataswami Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the issues arising out of the Tehelka Tapes. The terms of reference of the Commission are as under:

"(a) to inquire whether the transactions relating to Defence and other procurements referred to in the said videotapes and transcripts have been carried out in terms of the prescribed procedures and the imperatives of national security;

(b) to inquire whether in any of the aforesaid procurement transactions, illicit gains have been made by persons in public office, individuals, and any other organization as alleged, and if so, to what extent;

(c) to suggest action that may be taken in respect of persons who may be found responsible by the Commission for their acts of commission and/or omission in respect of the transactions referred to in sub-clause (a) above;

(d) to inquire into all aspects relating to the making and publication of these allegations and any other matter which arises from or is connected with or incidental to any act, omission or transaction referred to in sub-clauses (a) and (b) above."

Construction of Cavitation Tunnel by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory

3065. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Cavitation Tunnel has been constructed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratories in Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, what is the use of the tunnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tunnel will be used for conducting hydro-dynamic tests of underwater weapons/submerged bodies developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) and Navy.